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"BLACK ROSES" ✓

Scenario ✓

by ✓

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6 Reels ✓

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by ✓

Robertson-Cole Company ✓

Haya, a Japanese architect in order to learn the language and pursue his profession in America, has taken a position as gardner to Benson Burleigh, a retired crook. Blossom, his Japanese bride, lives with him in the gardner's cottage. Blanche De Vore, English Harry and Wong, their Chinese servant and accomplice, all three former associates of Burleigh, visit the latter with the intention of compelling him to "come across" with the fruits of a former deal. On Burleigh's refusal he is murdered by Harry. Haya is summoned to the house and is felled with a poker which English Harry takes from the fireplace. The knife which was used to murder Burleigh is then placed in the unconscious Haya's hand and the poker which rendered Haya unconscious is laid near the dead Burleigh.

The crooks escape and the police arrive before Haya returns to consciousness. He then perceives the cook and butler who have returned from their day off and summoned the police. To the latter the case is clear and Haya is immediately handcuffed and they start to take him away. He asks to see his wife and upon being taken to the cottage he finds evidences of a struggle and that his wife is gone - for the departing crooks carried her out with them having found that Blossom witnessed the murder from outside.

The chain of circumstantial evidence being so complete Haya is sent to State's Prison for twenty years. Here he becomes a trusty and a friend of the Librarian "Friday Frei", who is in prison on a long term for forging. Frei is also in prison as a

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result of a "frame-up" engineered by the trio of crooks. When Fred learns the truth about Haya and the present location of Blanche and Harry from a new arrival in the prison, he begins educating Haya in the English language and the "lingo" of the underworld.

At an opportune time Fred works Haya up to the point of attempting escape which he successfully accomplishes by climbing on the switch engine in the prison yard and running it through the prison gates. Before the escape Fred has told Haya where he has his money hidden and Haya next appears in New York City at the Hotel Du Nori as Matsu Chida, a wealthy young Japanese nobleman returning from his Oxford University course and enroute to his own country.

Blanche DeVore, living as Mrs. Benson Burleigh, sees in Matsu Chida a likely prospect and eventually succeeds in drawing him into the "baiger game", using English Harry to pose as her husband. At the climax of the game however, Chida startles them by announcing that he is himself an international crook known as "The Yellow Talon" and that he has allowed the game to go so far to test their ability. He tells them he knows a Japanese nobleman who is looking for his daughter and that if they can find a Japanese girl, one that they can control, they will all make a complete "cleanup". Immediately thinking of Blossom, who is in their power, they make arrangements for Haya to meet her.

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Later Haya makes a proposition to Blanche to "double-cross" the other two, and split the proceeds and suggests that she meet him in his apartment at nine o'clock that night. Leaving Blanche he then calls English Harry and makes the same proposition to him and arranging an appointment at his (Haya's) apartment at 9:30 that night. Haya then disguises himself as an old Japanese gentleman, calls on Wong in Chinatown and finds that Wong recognizes him. He kills Wong and escapes with the girl, returning to his own apartment.

Harry and Blanche finding themselves in Haya's apartment confess to each other the proposition of double-cross made to them by Haya. They suspect trouble and carry on an incriminating conversation which is written down by a stenographer 'listening in' on a dictaphone. Shortly after Haya and Blossom arrive and later the detective who has been searching for Haya since his escape from State's Prison. Just as the detective is about to arrest Haya he calls the stenographer in and has the conversation read which absolutely proves Harry and Blanche to have been the murderers of Burleigh, and establishes the innocence of Haya.

THE END.

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